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## GENEALOGY

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### THE EMPEROUR FAMILY OF LOWER NORFOLK.

(By G. Andrews Moriarity, Jr., A. M., Boston, Mass.)

One of the most prominent families of Lower Norfolk county during the 17th century, was that of Emperour, and, although it has long been extinct in the male line, its blood, transmitted through females, still flows in the veins of many prominent Virginians and the name still survives as a given one among many of the old families of Norfolk and Princess Ann.

The original name appears to have been De Keyser and its first members in England were Dutchmen, who, driven out of the Low Countries at the time of the Spanish rule, settled in the Walloon Colony that flourished in Norwich in the 16th century. The Norwich records state that "Guilielmus De Keyser, lanificus, cum uxore et sex pueris, quorum unus hic natus est, et cum ancilla, ex Brabantia huc venit anno 1561." In 1567 a John de Keyser came to Norwich from Flanders and in the town records the name is called "de Keyser anglice Emperour." The records of the Dutch Church at Norwich abound with references to the De Keyser, Lempereur and Emperour family, as the name is variously spelled. In 1584, a Francis Emperour, "from the dominions of the King of Spain," is noted as living in Norwich; and in 1653 a Francis Emperour, a tobacco merchant, was residing there.

With regard to the Virginia family the late E. W. James, Esq., collected considerable data, concerning its members, in his admirable publication, "The Lower Norfolk Antiquary," but further investigation upon my part revealed so much new data, including very valuable information which I discovered at Barbados that I have decided to throw my notes into a regular pedigree form, as follows:

I 1. ————— Emperour.

Probably of Norwich England; and perhaps the son of the Francis Emperour, who was in Norwich in 1584, as having recently arrived from the dominions of the King of Spain. He had at least four children:

2. Elizabeth married ————— Horbin of Barbados.

3. Sarah married 1st Edward Oistin of Christ Church Barbados and 2ndly William Leigh or Lee.

4. Capt. Francis of Lower Norfolk Va.

5. John of St. Michael's Barbados.

II 2. Elizabeth Emperour, probably born in England. Married ——— Horbin of Barbados, probably the brother of Joseph Horbin of St. Michaels parish, a rich Barbadian planter, who owned estates in Jamaica and South Carolina and whose wife was related to the Seabury family in New England.

Elizabeth Horbin removed to Princess Anne County Virginia and made her will there on 30 December 1693, proved 4 November 1696. She calls herself "late of Barbados, but now of Princess Ann Co. Virginia." She bequeathes to her cousin Elizabeth Ramsden daughter of "my sister Sarah Lee in Barbados" and to my cousins Elizabeth and William Ramsden, children of my cousin Mrs. Elizabeth Ramsden; to my loving cousin, Mr. Francis Emperour, and his son, Francis; to my loving cousin Mrs. Sarah Emperour, wife of my cousin Francis Emperour; to my loving friend and kinsman Mr. Tully Robinson and makes my loving cousin Mrs. Sarah Emperour my executrix. She states that her Barbadian property is in the hands of Thomas Shearman and Joseph Hough at Barbados.

II 3. Sarah Emperour married, at Christ Church parish, Barbados, on 1 March 1659, Edward Oistin gent., son of Edward Oistin, gentleman of Christ Church parish, an early magistrate there in 1629. Oistin's Town and Oistin's Bay, in Christ Church parish, derive their name from this family, whose estates lay in the South West part of the parish on the coast. Edward Oistin died in 1669 and she married secondly William Leigh at St. John's parish, Barbados, on 3 August 1670.

Issue by her first husband:

6. Elizabeth married 1st Henry Ramsden of Christ Church Barbados and 2ndly Miles James of Christ Church about 1701.

7. Edward.

8. Sarah married her cousin, Francis Tully Emperour, of Lower Norfolk, Va., on 25 September 1679, at Christ Church, Barbados.

II 4. Captain Francis Emperour. Born about 1628, died 1662. of Lower Norfolk Co. Va. He appears to have come to Virginia about 1650 and on the 20 January 1650, Thomas Marsh gave him a Power of Attorney. On 15 September 1652 he was given a certificate for 300 acres for the transportation of himself, Mary Emperour, Charles Emperour and others into the Colony. On 15 August 1661 he was granted land for the importation of Elizabeth and William Emperour and Marcus Tully, while on 21 November 1673 his widow, Mary, received land for the importation of herself, Capt. Francis Emperour, William Emperour, Elizabeth Emperour, Markus Tuly and Wanny, a negro.

Capt. Francis Emperour settled on the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River in Lynnhaven Parish in Lower Norfolk and was a prominent Merchant and Master Mariner there, while he also owned a large landed estate. He was a Commissioner for Lower Norfolk County from 15 October 1652 to 15 February 1659 and on 21 December 1652 was sworn in as High Sheriff of the County. He appears to have belonged to the Puritan party then very strong in Lower Norfolk and Nansemond Counties and negotiated, as is shown by certain documents, on file at Portsmouth and dated 19 November 1656, with "Mr. Moore, Minister of God in New England [Long Island], when he was last at ye Mannadus" [i. e. Manhattan], concerning his coming to Virginia. On 25 November 1655 he signed a letter to Capt. Thomas Willoughby relative to the procuring of a Puritan minister for Lynnhaven.

The records of Suffolk County, Massachusetts, show that in July 1656 he was at Boston, probably on a voyage; for, on 15 July 1656, he translated certain Dutch documents from New Amsterdam, for the use of the Massachusetts Court, in the case of Gerardy vs. Killvert; thus confirming the fact that the family was of Dutch origin. On 17 November 1656 he sued Daniel Lane, of Salem, "Mr. of the Ketch Dolphin," in the Lower Norfolk Court, for damage done his goods on a voyage from Boston to Virginia (evidently his return trip, after his stay in Boston, during the summer of 1656). He states that the ketch sprang a leak off Nantasket and that they had to put into Plymouth to refit. In this deposition he calls himself "aged about 28 years." On 15 November, 1658 his voyage to the Indies is mentioned. These entries make it certain that he was a merchant of Puritan tendencies, who traded with New Amsterdam, New England and the West Indies.

Besides the offices already referred to he was Surveyor and Collector of the Western Shore of Lynnhaven on 1 November 1653 and Collector for both the Eastern and Western Shores and for Little Creek on 19 November 1656. His Inventory was taken on 14 June 1662 and I cannot but consider it very significant that his tenure of public office ceased in 1659, just at the close of the Puritan rule in England.

His wife, Mary Emperour, was beyond all doubt a Tully of the Eastern Shore family of that name. Two of their sons were called Francis Tully and Tully Emperour, respectively, and Mary Emperour calls Tully Robinson her nephew. Mary Emperour, like the Oistins in Barbados, was a Quaker and was frequently fined for attending Quaker meetings. Her will, dated 20 April 1676, proved 3 July 1676, mentions her sons Francis, William and Tully Emperour, her daughter Elizabeth Phillips and her three cousins [nephew and neices] Tully, Elizabeth and Mary Robinson.

## Issue:

9. Francis afterwards Francis Tully.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Tully.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ William.
12. Elizabeth married \_\_\_\_\_ Phillips.
13. (?) Charles probably a son. Alive 15 September 1652; probably died without issue before 20 April 1676.

II 5. John Emperour of St. Michael's parish [i. e. Bridgetown] Barbados. He is mentioned, on 15 December 1657, by his brother Capt. Francis Emperour in a case before the Lower Norfolk Court, where he states the amount of sugar dispensed by him at Barbados for meat for a ship in which Capt. Francis was part owner. Among the Barbadian deeds at Bridgetown I found one of 4 August 1656, wherein Lieut. Benjamin Reade of Barbados conveyed to Mr. John Emperour of the same Island, his interest in four new servants, etc., together with 4,945 lbs. of good well cured muscovado sugar. This is all I have been able to find about him. He must however have been married and had issue, at least, two children; for there is no other place to fit in Thomas and Martha Emperour of Bridgetown, Barbados, except as his children. I therefore assume that he had issue:

14. Thomas of St. Michael's.
15. Martha married at St. Michaels Cathedral Bridgetown on 22 June 1673 Thomas Farle.

III 9. Francis Emperour, gentleman, later called Francis Tully Emperour of Lower Norfolk and Princess Ann Counties, Virginia, and Christ Church parish, Barbados. Francis Tully Emperour was born probably about 1655 and resided principally in Lynnhaven parish. He was a Justice of Princess Ann in 1691-93. He appears to have been a large planter and merchant and his title of "gentleman" indicates his position in the County. His place, which he later sold to the trustees of Thomas Walke's estate became famous as "Fairfield," the seat of the Walke family in Princess Ann County. His large estates in Virginia lay in Lynnhaven parish, but he also acquired, by marriage, extensive estates in Christ Church parish Barbados. He appears to have resided both in Virginia and in Barbados, but chiefly in the former colony. In 1696 the Princess Ann Court found him to be temporarily deranged. His will, on file at Princess Ann, is dated 26 May 1698, proved 20 July 1711. He leaves all his property to his son, Francis, and, in the event of his death, all his estates in Virginia were to go to the children of Tully Emperour and his estates in Barbados to the children of Henry Ramsden by Elizabeth Oistin. All the executors were gentlemen in Barbados.

(To be Concluded)